



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DATE: February 11, 2008

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Directors, and Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *CW*

SUBJECT: **URGENT – EXPANDED RECALL ALERT**
Commodity and Commercial Vegetarian Beans, Kidney Beans, and Great Northern Beans in #10 cans (weighing 6 to 7 pounds)

PLEASE ALERT THE SCHOOLS IN YOUR DISTRICT that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded the product recall because of a potential Clostridium botulinum (C. botulinum) contamination to all canned Vegetarian Beans, Kidney Beans, and Great Northern Beans in #10 cans (large institutional-sized cans weighing between 6 and 7 pounds) distributed nationwide by the New Era Canning Company, New Era, Michigan, over the last five years. **The codes on the affected product begin with numbers “00249” or the letters “NORTH,” “LRKID,” “DRKID,” OR “VEG” stamped on the top or bottom of each can.**

The following USDA commodities would have been delivered from the State Warehouses (Northern Food Service and TLC) to the schools **prior to February 2004**:

Northern Warehouse	Code 2090	Commodity Vegetarian Beans #10 cans
TLC Warehouse	Code 2090	Commodity Vegetarian Beans #10 cans
Northern Warehouse	Code 2052	Commodity Kidney Beans #10 cans
TLC Warehouse	Code 2052	Commodity Kidney Beans #10 cans
Northern Warehouse	Code 2039	Commodity Great Northern Beans #10
TLC Warehouse	Code 2039	Commodity Great Northern Beans #10

The codes are commodity codes assigned by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). These codes would have been reflected on your invoices from your state assigned warehouse. The codes will not appear on the cans or the cases of commodity Vegetarian, Kidney, and Great Northern beans.

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Schools could have also received vegetarian beans, kidney beans, and great northern beans in #10 cans as commodity and commercial product. Please refer to the attached list that was issued by FDA regarding the product labels that have been affected by this recall.

Please have the schools check their inventory and discontinue using these items immediately. The commodity must be disposed by the school using the following guidance.

Do not open or puncture any unopened can of the recalled product.

- Dispose of food that may be contaminated by placing in a sealable bag, wrapping another plastic bag around the sealable bag, and then taping tightly. Place bags in a secure trash receptacle for non-recyclable trash close to the time that trash pickup is due for your school/facility to avoid any possibility that the product will be removed prior to pickup.
- Do not discard the food in a sink, garbage disposal, or toilet.

Handling opened cans of recalled product:

- Avoid splashing and contact with the skin.
- Wear rubber or latex gloves when handling open containers of food that you think may be contaminated.
- Wash hands with soap and running water for at least 2 minutes after handling food or containers that may be contaminated.
- Wipe up spills using a bleach solution (use $\frac{1}{4}$ cup bleach for each 2 cups of water). Completely cover the spill with the bleach solution. Place a layer of paper towels, 5 to 10 towels thick, on top of the bleach. Let the towels sit for at least 15 minutes, then put the paper towels in the trash. Wipe up any remaining liquid with new paper towels. Clean the area with liquid soap and water to remove the bleach.
- Wash hands with soap and running water for at least 2 minutes. Sponges, cloths, rags, and gloves that may have come into contact with contaminated food or containers should be discarded with the food.

USDA has not notified MDE whether or not replacement and/or credit will be issued for the USDA Commodity canned Vegetarian Beans, Kidney Beans, and canned Great Northern Beans. As soon as information becomes available, MDE will notify your school.

As for commercial product, you will need to contact your distributor regarding arrangements that the district will need to make for the replacement and/or credit for this product.

If your school has any of the **USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Special Nutrition Programs, Alexandria, VA, label with the UPC code numbers identified on the list of product labels affected by the expanded recall**, your school is to complete the attached form, "Verification of On-Site Inventory of Canned Vegetarian Beans, Kidney Beans, and Great Northern Beans."

In order for MDE to inform USDA of the total number of canned Vegetarian Beans, Kidney Beans, and canned Great Northern Beans involved in the expanded recall, it is essential that you fax (517-373-4022) this completed form to MDE no later than **Tuesday, February 19.**

For additional information on products being recalled, refer to the following web sites:

FDA Home Recall Page: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>

New Era Press Release: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/newera02_08.html

FDA Warning: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01795.html>

Any questions related to this memorandum should be directed to Jayme Priest, Consultant, at 517-335-3792 or e-mail at priestj@michigan.gov and Lucia Campbell, Analyst, at 517-373-1073 or e-mail at campbelll4@michigan.gov.

Attachments

Michigan Department of Education
Grants Coordination and School Support

The following products are affected by this recall action:

Great Northern beans (UPC 7486510486). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "NORTH" are included.

Light red kidney beans (UPC 7486510642). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "LRKID" are included.

Dark red kidney beans (UPC 1207316042). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "DRKID" are included.

Black-eyed Peas (UPC 4820049146). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "BEP" are included.

Fancy Great Northern beans (UPC 4820068288). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "NORTH" are included.

Fancy dark red kidney beans (UPC 4820068171). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "DRKID" are included.

Vegetarian beans in tomato sauce (UPC 4820069161). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "VEG" are included.

9390111883). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "WAX" are included.

Black-eyed peas (UPC 3683511698). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "BEP" are included.

Great Northern beans (UPC 3683511688). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "NORTH" are included.

Light red kidney beans (UPC 3683511682). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "LRKID" are included.

Dark red kidney beans, (UPC 3683511680). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "DRKID" are included.

Pinto beans (UPC 3683511686). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "PINTO" are included.

Vegetarian beans (UPC 3683511670). All lot codes beginning with "00249" or "VEG" are included.

**Verification of On-Site Inventory of USDA
Canned Vegetarian, Kidney, and Great Northern Beans
On Recall Alert February 2008**

Please fill out the information below and document the number of #10 cans of Vegetarian, Kidney, and Great Northern beans that have been "Destroyed" by your school.

<u>Product Name</u>	<u>Brand Name</u>	<u>UPC Code #</u>	<u>Quantity of #10 cans</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL:			_____

I have verified that the products listed were properly identified with a UPC code # on each can.

(Printed Name)

(Signature)

(Title)

(Name of Organization)

(Telephone Number)

(Date)

**COMPLETE FORM AND FAX TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AT (517) 373-4022
ATTENTION RENEE CRATTY
BY FEBRUARY 19, 2008
Michigan Department of Education**